



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

Fact Sheet

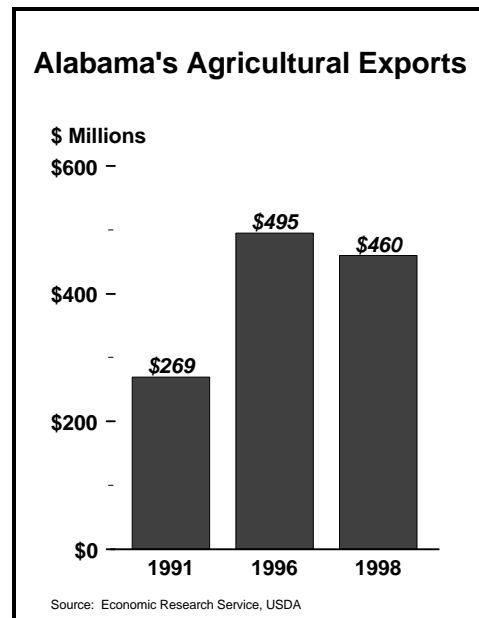
WTO and Agriculture What's at Stake for Alabama?

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Alabama is an important producer of agricultural and wood products exported worldwide. The state's farm cash receipts totaled \$3.4 billion in 1998, and its forest product shipments totaled \$3.5 billion in 1996. As for exports, the state's agricultural sales overseas were estimated at \$460 million in 1998. These exports boost prices and create jobs. Alabama's agricultural exports alone currently support about 7,000 jobs both on the farm and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports are increasingly important to Alabama's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports has risen from 9 percent to 14 percent since 1991.

Alabama's top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # poultry and products -- \$270 million
- # cotton -- \$75 million
- # soybeans and products -- \$29 million
- # peanuts and products -- \$25 million
- # live animals and red meats -- \$24 million



World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Alabama's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Alabama Producers Benefit From Trade Agreements

- # Alabama, one of the largest poultry producers, benefits under the Uruguay Round as South Korea grants unlimited access for frozen chicken at a 20 percent tariff by 2004. Poland opened market access equal to 8.5 percent of domestic consumption (roughly 30,000 tons). The Philippines opened a tariff-rate quota for 14,000 tons of chicken, which will reach 23,500 tons by 2004.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.